

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

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July 3, 1963

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MEMORANDUM TO

Mr. Charles L. Marshall, Director, Division of Classification, Atomic Energy Commission.

Declassification of Documents Pertaining to Japanese SUBJECT: Fishing Incident of March 1, 1954

This in reference to your letter of February 13 and the documents attached therto pertaining to the Japanese Fishing Vessel incident of March 1, 1954. You requested the Department's views on the possibility of declassifying the subject documents.

'On the basis of our review, the Department perceives no objection to declassifying documents 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8. The Department cannot, however, concur in the declassification of the remaining documents in question, i.e. numbers 2, 5, 9, 10, and 11. Each of these documents, while containing much material already in the public domain, continue to be sensitive in part and might, if disclosed have a harmful effect on U.S. relations with Japan.

The Department would have no objections to Professor Eisenbud's continuing to have access to these classified documents under the safeguards prescribed for the protection of classified materials. Any material which Professor Eisenbud or others might prepare for publication on the basis of these documents should, however, be submitted to the Department for review and clearance prior to publication. There continues to be considerable interest in Japan in the "Fukuryu Maru" incident, and the leftist, opposition critics of U.S. policy are always ready to exploit the anti-nuclear sentiments of the Japanese people. Publication of materials reflecting U.S. official criticism of Japanese press, Japanese scientists and Japanese scientific findings could significantly impair the efforts of this government to bring the Japanese scientific community to a better understanding of the United States and its policies.

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Charles W. Thomas

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